

going to the University?
Why, that if they expected to
assist their Husbands in
their business, writing
their sermons for instance
that it was well enough,
but otherwise he did
not see any use in it.

I told him every Mother
had need of all the knowledge
she could get to answer the
questions her children asked
her every day. The idea that
woman had no use for any
great amount of knowledge
on her own account was
what stirred me up. Then he
said not exactly in those words
but in substance, that if she
was so highly educated she
would despise her Husband,
to which I replied she must
take care and not marry
one she would despise.

Spring of 1874

Thursday eve.

Dear Millie

I did not write last
week. Well I suppose Annie
could tell you all and more
than I could write. In truth
I do not feel as if there was
anything very special to say
unless I should fill my
letter with the farm items.

For instance, Papa came in
and says: Well I don't know
what I shall do, the weeds are
getting ahead of me, and it
is time that corn was planted,
and the chinamen are not
done putting out peach pits,
and here is a barrel of Black
walnuts and one of Butter
nuts come to be taken care
of. Does that kind of talk

seemed natural? Well it
used to trouble me but I
have found that the work
gets done somehow and
take it easily. Mrs. Severance
and Mrs. Peet called here this
week and went into ecstasies
about the flowers. Of course
I enjoyed giving them &
carry home a ~~plenty~~
They are very pleasant
ladies.

I am glad to know you
are not going to really
dislike your new Teacher.

More than that I should
not expect. I imagine
the poor man's health is
in no great danger as you
will have so short a
time in which to work
upon his nerves.

Did you and Eddy
go down and wait for
Annie last Sat. night. I
thought about it and felt
sorry for your disappointment
but Papa seemed very loth
to have Annie go.

I shall be down in time
to make you dress and
shall feel so much better (and
Auntie has no boards) ~~about coming~~

I am at work at Annie's
dresses this week and getting
on nicely.

We have had a lovely shower
to day and everything is so
fresh and bright. Mr. Blacklee
was here to supper last night
and I came pretty near getting
provoked. What do you think
he said in regard to girls

Letter is worth sending if I have not time to write to you
Do with love
Helen

To which he remarked she might not find one who was her equal, and I replied Then let her remain single. I despise teaching girls that it is absolutely necessary that they should marry ~~even~~ My face fairly burned. If anything would drive me any over into the extreme of women's rights movements, it would be such arguments as those on the other side. But that I would say anything against marriage I have not a shadow of a doubt, that a woman suitably married to one she loves, has in that condition the greatest assurance of a happy life that anything earthly can

give her, but what ~~needed~~ we
was the taking it for granted
that a woman must be married
anyhow. There, that was not
merely writing down but I
got started.

I expected a line from Annie
to say whether the trimming
on the bottom of her linen
skirt was to be cut bias or
straight, but no matter I
can find out here. I shall
go and see Mrs. Barry.

The paper says Mrs. Phelps
declines being candidate for
supt. schools. Was she named
seriously? It seems you
really have a haunted house
in Oakland. I am delighted
to be within 20 miles of such
a monster! I never expected
to get so near. I don't think this